

**UNOFFICIAL VERSION**

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**SATURDAY, JANUARY 19, 2019**

**FIFTH ORGANIZATIONAL DAY**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Senate met at 10:30 a.m., and was called to order by Mr. Speaker McNally.

**PRAYER**

The proceedings were opened with prayer by Bishop J. Mark Spalding of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Nashville in Nashville, Tennessee, a guest of Mr. Speaker McNally and Senator Dickerson.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Senator Dickerson led the Senate in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**SALUTE TO THE FLAG OF TENNESSEE**

Senator Dickerson led the Senate in the Salute to the Flag of Tennessee.

**ROLL CALL**

The roll call was taken with the following results:

Present . . . . . 31

Senators present were: Akbari, Bailey, Bell, Bowling, Briggs, Crowe, Dickerson, Gardenhire, Gilmore, Gresham, Haile, Hensley, Jackson, Johnson, Kelsey, Kurita, Kyle, Massey, Niceley, Pody, Reeves, Roberts, Robinson, Southerland, Stevens, Swann, Watson, White, Yager, Yarbrow and Mr. Speaker McNally--31.

**MOTION**

Senator Johnson moved, pursuant to Rule 32 and Article II, Section 18 of the Constitution of the State of Tennessee, **Senate Bills Nos. 47 through 51** be passed on first consideration, which motion prevailed.

**INTRODUCTION OF BILLS**

The Speaker announced the following bills were filed for introduction and passed first consideration:

**Senate Bill No. 47** by Senator Yager.

Election Laws -- As introduced, requires county election commission to comply with terms of insurance policy with respect to legal representation and certain expenses. Amends TCA Title 2, Chapter 12.

**Senate Bill No. 48** by Senator Yager.

Purchasing and Procurement -- As introduced, authorizes a local governmental entity with centralized purchasing authority to increase the threshold, from \$25,000 to \$50,000, over which

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public advertisement and sealed competitive bids are required; reduces the number of purchase orders, from three to two, that must be retained by a county after a purchase order or contract is issued or executed. Amends TCA Section 5-14-111 and Section 12-3-1212.

### **Senate Bill No. 49** by Senator Gresham.

Publications, State -- As introduced, designates certain libraries as depositories for state depository publications; revises various provisions about maintenance and preservation of, and access to, state depository publications. Amends TCA Title 12, Chapter 6.

### **Senate Bill No. 50** by Senator Gresham.

Education, Dept. of -- As introduced, requires the department to create a three-year early learning pilot program, to begin in the 2019-2020 school year, to identify early learning programs that provide opportunities for quality early childhood education and improvement in student outcomes. Amends TCA Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 1.

### **Senate Bill No. 51** by Senator White.

Fireworks -- As introduced, allows the continued sale at retail of any Class C common fireworks in Rutherford County after the 2020 federal census. Amends TCA Section 68-104-112.

## **MOTION**

Senator Johnson moved, pursuant to Rule 33 and Article II, Section 18 of the Constitution of the State of Tennessee, that **Senate Bills Nos. 28 through 46** be passed on second consideration and be referred to the appropriate committees or held on the Clerk's desk, which motion prevailed.

## **SENATE BILLS ON SECOND CONSIDERATION**

The Speaker announced the following bills passed second consideration and were referred to the appropriate committees or held on the Clerk's desk:

**Senate Bill No. 28** referred to the Committee on Government Operations.

**Senate Bill No. 29** referred to the Committee on Commerce and Labor.

**Senate Bill No. 30** referred to the Committee on Energy, Agriculture and Natural Resources.

**Senate Bill No. 31** referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

**Senate Bill No. 32** referred to the Committee on State and Local Government.

**Senate Bill No. 33** referred to the Committee on Education.

**Senate Bill No. 34** referred to the Committee on Commerce and Labor.

**Senate Bill No. 35** referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

**Senate Bill No. 36** referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

**Senate Bill No. 37** referred to the Committee on Commerce and Labor.

**Senate Bill No. 38** referred to the Committee on State and Local Government.

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**Senate Bill No. 39** referred to the Committee on Commerce and Labor.

**Senate Bill No. 40** referred to the Committee on Finance, Ways and Means.

**Senate Bill No. 41** referred to the Committee on Transportation and Safety.

**Senate Bill No. 42** referred to the Committee on Transportation and Safety.

**Senate Bill No. 43** referred to the Committee on Transportation and Safety.

**Senate Bill No. 44** referred to the Committee on Transportation and Safety.

**Senate Bill No. 45** referred to the Committee on Transportation and Safety.

**Senate Bill No. 46** referred to the Committee on Transportation and Safety.

### MOTION

Senator Johnson moved, pursuant to Rule 21, **Senate Joint Resolutions Nos. 76 through 81** be passed on first consideration and lie over, which motion prevailed.

### INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

The Speaker announced the following resolutions were filed for introduction. Pursuant to Rule 21, the resolutions lie over.

**Senate Joint Resolution No. 76** by Senator Gilmore.

Memorials, Recognition -- American Heart Association/National Wear Red Day, February 1, 2019.

**Senate Joint Resolution No. 77** by Senator Watson and Mr. Speaker McNally.

Memorials, Retirement -- Jill Bachus.

**Senate Joint Resolution No. 78** by Senator Roberts.

Memorials, Sports -- Caleb Plant, IBF Super Middleweight World Champion.

**Senate Joint Resolution No. 79** by Senator Dickerson and Mr. Speaker McNally.

Memorials, Retirement -- Jed DeKalb.

**Senate Joint Resolution No. 80** by Senator Yager and Mr. Speaker McNally.

Memorials, Death -- Dr. Robert William "Bob" Peelle.

**Senate Joint Resolution No. 81** by Senator Yarbro.

Memorials, Recognition -- Tom Cigarran, Chairman of the Board of Nashville Predators.

### MOTION

Senator Johnson moved, pursuant to Rule 21, **House Joint Resolutions Nos. 15 and 46;** and **Senate Joint Resolutions Nos. 58 and 65 through 74** lie over and be referred to the appropriate committees or held on the Clerk's desk, which motion prevailed.

**RESOLUTIONS LYING OVER**

The Speaker announced the following resolutions passed second consideration and were referred to the appropriate committees or held on the desk, pursuant to Rule 21:

**House Joint Resolution No. 15** -- Memorials, Professional Achievement -- Dr. Jack A. Parton, 2018 AdvancED Tennessee Excellence in Education Award.

The Speaker announced that he had referred House Joint Resolution No. 15 to the Committee on Calendar.

**House Joint Resolution No. 46** -- Memorials, Retirement -- Jed DeKalb.

The Speaker announced that he had referred House Joint Resolution No. 46 to the Committee on Calendar.

**Senate Joint Resolution No. 58** -- General Assembly, Statement of Intent or Position -- Expresses support for the Nation of Israel.

The Speaker announced that he had referred Senate Joint Resolution No. 58 to the Committee on Finance, Ways and Means.

**Senate Joint Resolution No. 65** -- General Assembly, Confirmation of Appointment -- William J. Carver, Tennessee Education Lottery Corporation.

The Speaker announced that he had referred Senate Joint Resolution No. 65 to the Committee on State and Local Government.

**Senate Joint Resolution No. 66** -- Memorials, Public Service -- Commissioner Many-Bears Grinder.

The Speaker announced that he had referred Senate Joint Resolution No. 66 to the Committee on Calendar.

**Senate Joint Resolution No. 67** -- Memorials, Public Service -- Dr. Wendy J. Long.

The Speaker announced that he had referred Senate Joint Resolution No. 67 to the Committee on Calendar.

**Senate Joint Resolution No. 68** -- Memorials, Death -- William Hubert Reed, Jr.

The Speaker announced that he had referred Senate Joint Resolution No. 68 to the Committee on Calendar.

**Senate Joint Resolution No. 69** -- Memorials, Public Service -- Commissioner Bonnie Hommrich.

The Speaker announced that he had referred Senate Joint Resolution No. 69 to the Committee on Calendar.

**Senate Joint Resolution No. 70** -- Memorials, Death -- Thomas "Tom" Jensen.

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The Speaker announced that he had referred Senate Joint Resolution No. 70 to the Committee on Calendar.

**Senate Joint Resolution No. 71** -- Memorials, Sports -- Tennessee School for the Deaf volleyball team, National Champions.

The Speaker announced that he had referred Senate Joint Resolution No. 71 to the Committee on Calendar.

**Senate Joint Resolution No. 72** -- Memorials, Public Service -- Dr. Candice McQueen.

The Speaker announced that he had referred Senate Joint Resolution No. 72 to the Committee on Calendar.

**Senate Joint Resolution No. 73** -- Memorials, Public Service -- Commissioner Larry Martin.

The Speaker announced that he had referred Senate Joint Resolution No. 73 to the Committee on Calendar.

**Senate Joint Resolution No. 74** -- Memorials, Public Service -- Commissioner Debbie Payne.

The Speaker announced that he had referred Senate Joint Resolution No. 74 to the Committee on Calendar.

### **MOTION**

Senator Gilmore moved that Rules 32, 33 and 37 be suspended for the introduction and immediate consideration of **Senate Joint Resolution No. 76**, out of order, which motion prevailed.

### **INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION**

**Senate Joint Resolution No. 76** by Senator Gilmore.  
Memorials, Recognition -- American Heart Association/National Wear Red Day, February 1, 2019.

On motion of Senator Gilmore, the rules were suspended for the immediate consideration of the resolution.

On motion, **Senate Joint Resolution No. 76** was adopted.

A motion to reconsider was tabled.

### **MOTION**

Senator Johnson moved that Rule 19 be suspended for the purpose of considering the Calendar next, which motion prevailed.

### **CALENDAR**

**Senate Joint Resolution No. 59** -- Memorials, Death -- Senator Curtis Bentley "Ben" Atchley, Jr.

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On motion, **Senate Joint Resolution No. 59** was adopted by the following vote:

Ayes . . . . . 31  
Noes . . . . . 0

Senators voting aye were: Akbari, Bailey, Bell, Bowling, Briggs, Crowe, Dickerson, Gardenhire, Gilmore, Gresham, Haile, Hensley, Jackson, Johnson, Kelsey, Kurita, Kyle, Massey, Niceley, Pody, Reeves, Roberts, Robinson, Southerland, Stevens, Swann, Watson, White, Yager, Yarbrow and Mr. Speaker McNally--31.

A motion to reconsider was tabled.

**RECESS**

Senator Johnson moved the Senate recess and repair in a body to meet the House of Representatives in Joint Convention in War Memorial for the purpose of the Inauguration of the Governor, and further moved that at the conclusion of the Joint Convention that the Senate reconvene immediately in the Senate Chamber, which motion prevailed.

**IN JOINT CONVENTION  
INAUGURATION OF GOVERNOR**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. President McNally called the Joint Convention to order pursuant to **House Joint Resolution No. 10**.

**ROLL CALL**

Mr. President McNally declared that a quorum was present.

Senator Johnson moved that the roll call of the Senate be dispensed with, which motion prevailed.

Representative Lamberth moved that the roll call of the House of Representatives be dispensed with, which motion prevailed.

**MOTION**

Senator Johnson moved that pursuant to **House Joint Resolution No. 10** the Report of the Select Committee to Canvass Returns on the Governor's Race be adopted and spread upon the Journal, which motion prevailed.

Representative Lamberth seconded the motion.

**REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE  
TO CANVASS RETURNS ON THE GOVERNOR'S RACE  
PURSUANT TO HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 10**

The joint committee appointed to canvass and certify the results of the November 6, 2018, general election for the office of Governor of the State of Tennessee has met and reports the following results:

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Bill Lee	1,336,106
Karl Dean	864,863
Mark CoonRippy Brown	2,841
Sherry L. Clark	5,198
Justin Cornett	1,217
Gabriel Fancher	869
Sean Bruce Fleming	814
William Andrew Helmstetter	496
Cory King	1,502
Matthew Koch	652
Tommy Ray McAnally	609
Jessie D. McDonald	755
Toney Randall Mitchell	739
Yvonne Neubert	3,070
Alfred Shawn Rapoza	800
Chad Riden	1,096
Robert Sawyers, Sr.	1,059
Heather Scott	2,969
George Blackwell Smith IV	1,550
Jeremy Allen Stephenson	613
Tracy C. Yaste Tisdale	1,396
Mike Toews	726
Rick Tyler	981
Vinnie Vineyard	1,012
Jaron D. Weidner	588
Patrick Whitlock	3,631
Joe B. Wilmoth	2,444
Mark Wright	4,687
Eddie Murphy	11

Submitted by:

/s/ Representative Cameron A. Sexton  
/s/ Representative Johnny Shaw  
/s/ Representative Andy Holt

/s/ Senator Jack Johnson  
/s/ Senator Jeff Yarbrow  
/s/ Senator Ken Yager

Mr. Russell Humphrey, Chief Clerk of the Senate, read **House Joint Resolution No. 10**, authorizing the Joint Convention for the inauguration of the Honorable Bill Lee as Governor of the State of Tennessee.

### APPOINTMENT OF SELECT COMMITTEE

Mr. President McNally announced the appointment of a committee of Senators Gilmore, Gresham, Jackson, Kelsey, Niceley and Stevens to escort the Honorable Bill Haslam to the Speaker's platform.

Mr. President McNally recognized Mr. Speaker Casada who announced the appointment of a committee of Representatives DeBerry, Halford, Curtis Johnson, Lamberth, Marsh and Cameron Sexton to escort the Honorable Bill Lee to the Speaker's platform. Representative Curtis Johnson served as Chairperson of this committee.

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Representative Curtis Johnson presented the Honorable Bill Haslam, Governor of Tennessee and First Lady Crissy Haslam.

### **APPOINTMENT OF SELECT COMMITTEE**

Mr. President McNally announced the appointment of a committee of Senators Akbari, Haile, Johnson, Watson, Yager and Yarbrow to escort the Honorable Bill Lee to the Speaker's platform. Senator Haile served as Chairperson of this committee.

Mr. President McNally recognized Mr. Speaker Casada who announced the appointment of a committee of Representatives Holt, Lynn, Reedy, Sherrell, Windle and Zachary to escort the Honorable Bill Lee to the Speaker's platform.

Senator Haile presented the Honorable Bill Lee, Governor-Elect of Tennessee and Mrs. Maria Lee and family.

### **PRESENTATION OF COLORS**

The Presentation of Colors was given by the Tennessee National Guard.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Adam Dequan Smith.

### **NATIONAL ANTHEM**

The National Anthem was sung by Dailey & Vincent.

### **INVOCATION**

The proceedings were opened with invocation by Pastor Steve Berger, of Grace Chapel in Franklin, Tennessee.

### **INTRODUCTION**

Mr. President McNally introduced the Honorable Bill Haslam, who delivered the following farewell address.

### **FAREWELL ADDRESS GOVERNOR BILL HASLAM NASHVILLE, JANUARY 19, 2019**

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you, please have a seat. Thanks.

Let me start by thanking someone who has served this state amazingly well for the last eight years in more ways than I can tell you. Please help me thank the wonderful Crissy Haslam.

So in about two hours, Crissy and I are going to be getting in a car and heading east on I-40. Two things to know about that. Number one, I haven't driven in eight years. So if you happen to be going to Knoxville or Johnson City or Bristol somewhere, you might want to get a head start on us.



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The second thing to know is this, and I will try not to choke up when I say this. There won't be two more grateful people anywhere, than the two in that car. For the last eight years, we have loved every bit of doing this, and I can't thank you enough. Every day, I have walked up to the steps to the capitol and thought, as David says to God in Second Samuel, Who am I, Lord, and who is my house that you have brought me here? I felt that every day that I got to do this job and I always will. So to the people of Tennessee know I am forever grateful. This is a great state. For every one person that takes a cheap shot on social media, there's a hundred that send encouraging, thoughtful notes. For everyone that seems to live a life that's just about themselves, there's a hundred that rush to help when there's a tornado or a wildfire, military is deployed, or schoolchildren are in a bus wreck, or whatever it is. There's a hundred that respond for every one that disappoints you.

Three things I'd like to say, and then I'm gonna sit down and we are going to get about inaugurating a great man. The first is this. One of my favorite quotes is by Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes. He said, "this is the mighty joy in life, to be a force for good instead of a selfish, feverish clot of ailments complaining that the world won't make you happy". You know there's a lot of discussion going on about all the change in Tennessee. We have a new governor, a lot of new legislators, and new leadership. And the question always becomes, well who's got the power now? What's gonna happen? Who's gonna hold the reins of power? I hope the question becomes who's going to seek good the most, and who is going to serve the best? Because this is a great state that we are honored to live in and that we are called to serve.

The second point I would make is this. Tennessee will lead. If we're a state that can become the fastest improving state in the country for K-12 education results, the first state to figure out how to give everybody two free years of community college or technical school, a state that can have a GDP that rises faster than any of our neighbors, and a state that can figure out how to have low taxes and low debt, and still provide for our most vulnerable citizens, then we can lead. Governor Lee, you're going to find something, all these great folks that you've hired are going to be incredibly loyal to you. When you're right, they're going to be really loyal to you, and when you're not right they're still going to be loyal to you. During the campaign, when somebody would say something about Tennessee can do this better, we can do this. Our folks would get all offended, like, I can't believe them. Let them come try it, and we'll see how they do. But you know what? They're right. When Governor Lee talked through the campaign about Tennessee can be better, he was dead right. And we can be.

Governor Bredesen told me, I hope you remember this, about his last day in office. I said any last piece of advice? He said this, "We don't expect enough of ourselves. We can believe in better". That has been Governor Lee's message and it is so true. So work with Governor Lee to believe in better and be the kind of state that Tennessee really can be.

And that leads me to that last thing that I would like to say about who you have elected governor. Way to go, Tennessee. Way to go.

Mark my words. Bill Lee will be a great governor. Eight years, not four years, eight years from now, we will be paying tribute to the great job, you go, how do you know that? He hasn't done the job. Well I know that because I've seen him. I've seen him hire a great team of people, and to all of you who are joining the Lee administration, you're coming to work with a great group of people. I've already seen him recruit business to Tennessee. I've already seen him begin to wrestle and understand the budget. But even more than that, I've seen the courage of his convictions, whether it be through a campaign or just living life. Bill has faced some of the hardest things that life can handle, and he came up not feeling sorry for himself or having a pity party, but saying how can I serve?

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So Bill, Godspeed my brother.

Crissy and I woke up and did what thousands of other Tennesseans did this morning before we came here. We woke up and prayed for you and Maria. We will be praying for you and cheering for you. We're grateful to have you, you don't get to pick your successor in this job but I can't think of anybody else that we are more excited to turn over the keys to this wonderful state that we love and call home. Thank you so much for allowing us to do this.

### **PRESENTATION**

The Tennessee National Guard band played for the guests.

### **MR. PRESIDENT MCNALLY RELINQUISHES THE GAVEL**

Mr. President McNally relinquished the gavel to Mr. President Casada, as President of the Joint Convention.

### **OATH OF OFFICE**

The Honorable William Byron Lee, accompanied by Mrs. Maria Lee and family, was introduced and was administered the Oath of Office by the Honorable Jeffrey Bivens, Chief Justice of the Tennessee Supreme Court.

### **GOVERNOR'S SALUTE**

The Tennessee National Guard gave the Governor's Salute to Governor Lee.

### **INAUGURAL ADDRESS GOVERNOR BILL LEE**

In 1796, a man and his young family began their homestead just up the way on the banks of the Cumberland River. That was the same year the great state of Tennessee was formed. 223 years and 50 governors later, we stand here on the banks of the Cumberland, celebrating our history and anticipating our future.

I am honored to stand before you today.

Thank you for that warm introduction Governor McNally. Thanks to you, to Speaker Casada and all the Members of the General Assembly. I look forward to working with you in the months and years ahead.

To the former governors, thank you for being here as well. It's an honor to have you.

I would also like to thank our Constitutional Officers, the Justices of the Supreme Court, Members of Tennessee's Congressional Delegation and all of my fellow Tennesseans who have joined us here in War Memorial Auditorium, and those watching at home. Thank you for sharing in this special moment.

I would not be here today without God's gift to me, my wife Maria.

Throughout the past two years of campaigning, Maria has been constantly at my side. She has been steadfastly committed to me and in this process has become committed to the people of Tennessee. She will make a remarkable First Lady. Maria, thank you.

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I would also like to thank my family. My mom Ann Lee is here with us today. She's been the foundation for four generations of the Lee family, and I'm so honored to have her here with us today.

I would also like to thank my children, Jessica, Jacob, Caleb, Sarah Kate and their families. Your love and support has been strong and yet your sacrifice has been great and I thank you.

I'd like to thank Governor Bill Haslam and his wife Crissy for their tireless service to this state for the past eight years.

Governor, standing here in our state's capital city, we see reminders everywhere of the successes of your administration. Growth and opportunity seem to be found on every corner. From education to economic development, you have laid a tremendous foundation for us to build upon. We are the envy of many states, and that is due in large part to your exceptional leadership. Thank you for your service and for your friendship.

That man I told you about that settled with his family on the banks of the Cumberland River the year that this state was founded -- his name was Charles Braxton Lee.

He was my seventh great grandfather.

We stand here today as the beneficiaries not of great governments of the past--but of the lives of the great men and women who have come before us.

Men and women who forged difficult lives on the frontier, formed small towns, and eventually, larger cities. People who cleared the land and planted crops, started businesses, worked in factories, formed industries.

Creating, as it says on our seal, a state of commerce and agriculture, a state which now stands as one of the most prosperous in the nation.

It did not simply happen, and it was *never* inevitable.

It happened because of men and women who came before us, who educated the children of Tennessee in one room school houses, and created our education system.

Men and women who cared for our sick on the frontier and then built clinics and hospitals and a healthcare system.

Men and women who protected us and built a system of law and justice, circuit riders who built a community of faith.

It happened because of men and women who struggled to overcome injustices and inequalities in our society...from slavery to suffrage to civil rights.

And it happened because men and women fought and sacrificed, sometimes their lives from the Revolutionary War, until today, defending and protecting the very freedoms that we enjoy today.

And most of all, it happened because of the favor of God Himself. In spite of our inadequacies and our weaknesses, He has been strong on our behalf. He has blessed us indeed. And as governor of Tennessee, I will daily ask Him for his wisdom, guidance, and direction.

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We will need that wisdom, for despite the blessings we enjoy, we still face great challenges.

Tennesseans, we stand in one of the great states in all of America.

But our greatness has never come from what any one individual did.

Our greatness has always come from the collective lives, service, commitment and sacrifice of those who came before us—because of what we have always done as a people *together*, in community with each other, in service to our state and to our neighbors.

Last year, Maria and I drove back and forth to every corner of Tennessee in an old RV, and we found out something: no matter whether you live in the mountains of East Tennessee, or the fields of West Tennessee, whether you live in a small town or downtown, people want the same thing: a good job, good school for their kids, and a safe neighborhood.

It's true that we have good jobs and great prosperity here. We have record low unemployment and taxes. Companies are moving here and small businesses are starting here.

And yet, we also have 15 counties in poverty, all rural, all Tennesseans.

We have some of the most economically distressed zip codes in America—right in the heart of our greatest cities.

When we consider our state, we see how fortunate we are, and yet, we also see how much we have to do.

Not only do Tennesseans want a good job; they want good schools for their kids. We've made tremendous progress in education in this state—in part due to great education Governors who have come before me. In fact, Tennessee has the highest rate of improvement in educational outcomes in America. And yet, we're still in the bottom half of states.

I believe that education is more than a test score—it's about preparing a child for success in life. A resurgence of vocational, technical and agricultural education, and the inclusion of civics and character education, combined with reforms, will take Tennessee to the top tier of states.

Tennesseans do want good jobs and schools, but they want safe neighborhoods too. And while most neighborhoods are safe, our violent crime rate is on the rise in every major city. We *can* be tough on crime *and* smart on crime at the same time. For violent criminals and traffickers, justice should be swift and certain.

But here's the reality, 95% of the people in prison today are coming out. And today in Tennessee, half of them commit crimes again and return to prison within the first three years. We need to help non-violent criminals re-enter society, and not re-enter prison.

I believe we can do it and create safer neighborhoods for everyone in Tennessee.

These are just a few examples of the challenges that we face, and there are other challenges we can't ignore.

The opioid epidemic that is ravaging our state.

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Too few Tennesseans have access to healthcare that they can afford.

And our rural communities are struggling.

These are the challenges of our day, and history will judge us based on how we meet them.

As honored as I am to be your next governor, I know that no governor can solve all the problems we face—in fact, no government can.

Government is not the answer to our greatest challenges.

Government's role is to protect our rights and our liberty and our freedom.

I believe in a limited government, that provides unlimited opportunity for we the people to address the greatest challenges of our day.

The truth is that most of the things that have created the greatness of Tennessee don't have very much to do with government at all.

Our strength has always come from our people, people like those First Tennesseans, who came here with hope, who worked together to create this great state.

We are famous for our three grand divisions of East, Middle and West Tennessee, represented by the three stars on our flag. It is important however to remember that the blue circle around the three stars on our flag represents the unity of our state. I believe that Tennesseans have much more that unites us than divides us.

I believe that one way that we unite is by following the commandment to love your neighbor as yourself. In fact, I believe it is the key to American greatness. Our greatness has never come from government compulsion or power. Our greatness has always come from our love for each other, our commitment to our fellow citizens, our neighbors.

If we remember that commandment and walk in that spirit, our greatest days will always lie before us.

So much has changed in the last 223 years, but some things haven't changed at all.

Once again, here we are: Tennesseans, standing on the banks of the Cumberland, with great challenges and great opportunities before us -- as in need of the Wisdom and favor of God as much as ever -- and with a deep commitment to each other.

These last few months especially, I've thought a lot about Braxton Lee and those first Tennesseans.

I wonder what they told each other and how they dealt with their struggles. I think a lot about who they were.

They were strong and courageous. They were faithful. They were committed. They were certain.

They were Tennesseans.

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I've also thought a lot about our descendants, seven generations from now. What will they say of us?

Were we strong and courageous, faithful, committed, certain? Did we come together to meet the challenges we faced, with courage, optimism and belief in each other?

If we meet the challenges of this moment, they too will say of us-- "They were Tennesseans."

Thank you for this great honor, may God bless each of you and may God Bless the great state of Tennessee.

Thereupon, Mr. President Casada declared that the Honorable Bill Lee was duly, legally and constitutionally inaugurated as the Governor of Tennessee for the ensuing four years.

### **OATH OF OFFICE OF CABINET**

Governor Lee introduced his Cabinet appointees and administered the Oath of Office.

### **BENEDICTION**

Mr. President Casada introduced Dr. Don Finto, founder and president of Caleb Company, who gave the Benediction.

### **DISSOLUTION OF JOINT CONVENTION**

Mr. President Casada declared, pursuant to **House Joint Resolution No. 10**, the purpose for which the Joint Convention was assembled having been accomplished, the Joint Convention stood dissolved.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The Senate was called to order by Mr. Speaker McNally.

### **ROLL CALL**

The Speaker declared that a quorum was present.

On motion, the roll call was dispensed with.

### **MOTION**

On motion of Senator Gardenhire, his name was added as sponsor of **Senate Bill No. 50**.

On motion of Senators Briggs, Akbari, Bowling, Gresham, Kurita, Kyle, Massey, Robinson, White, Bailey, Bell, Crowe, Dickerson, Gardenhire, Haile, Hensley, Jackson, Johnson, Kelsey, Niceley, Pody, Reeves, Roberts, Southerland, Stevens, Swann, Watson, Yager, Yarbrow and Mr. Speaker McNally, their names were added as sponsors of **Senate Joint Resolution No. 76**.

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**ENGROSSED BILLS**

January 19, 2019

MR. SPEAKER: Your Deputy Chief Clerk begs leave to report that we have carefully examined: Senate Joint Resolution No. 59, and find same correctly engrossed and ready for transmission to the House.

ALAN WHITTINGTON  
Deputy Chief Clerk

**ENGROSSED BILLS**

January 19, 2019

MR. SPEAKER: Your Deputy Chief Clerk begs leave to report that we have carefully examined: Senate Joint Resolution No. 76, and find same correctly engrossed and ready for transmission to the House.

ALAN WHITTINGTON  
Deputy Chief Clerk

**MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE**

January 19, 2019

MR. SPEAKER: I am directed to return to the Senate, Senate Joint Resolutions Nos. 57, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64 and 75; concurred in by the House.

TAMMY LETZLER  
Chief Clerk

**ADJOURNMENT**

Senator Johnson moved that pursuant to **House Joint Resolution No. 10**, the Organizational Session of the One Hundred Eleventh General Assembly stand adjourned sine die, which motion prevailed.